

SIPL.P110

Patent Application 10/632,730

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 14-16 and 19-23 are allowed. Claims 3, 11, and 18 were objected to. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 13, and 17 were rejected. Claims 1, 6-11, and 17 have been amended herein. Claims 2, 3, and 18 have been canceled herein without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-16 and 19-23 are allowed. Claims 3, 11, and 18 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended the claims accordingly.

Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 11 has been amended to be independent and to include the limitations of claims 1 and 2.

Independent claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 18. Claim 18 has been cancelled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iadarola et al., U.S. Patent 4,543,715, hereinafter "Iadarola".

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3, and is therefore allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claims 4-10, 12, and 13 are dependent from claim 1, and are therefore allowable as being dependent on an allowable claim.

Claim 17 has been amended to be allowable (to be independent and to include the limitations of claim 18) as indicated by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 have been overcome, and respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

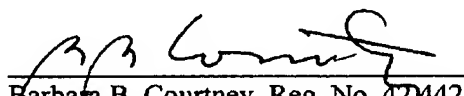
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and rejections have been overcome, and that claims 1, 4-17 and 19-23 are in condition for allowance. The allowance of the claims is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if there are any issues that remain to be resolved prior to allowance of the claims.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge deposit account 501914 for any underpayments in connection with this Office Action response.

Respectfully submitted,
Shemwell Gregory & Courtney LLP

Date: December 9, 2004


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